

  
**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC

Dear Commissioner Ness,

This timely request requires your immediate attention. I am a supporter of creation of a Low Power FM (LPFM) radio service as outlined in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in docket MM 99-25, which called for creation of 1000 watt and 100 watt commercial and non-commercial LPFM stations nationwide.

Your help is needed immediately as the FCC intends to vote at it's Jan. 20th meeting to severely gut this proposal (NPRM) providing for only non-commercial stations with maximum power of 100 watts. At only 100 watts coverage will be limited to only 3.5 miles as opposed to 9 miles that a 1000 watt station would provide.

To place these severe limits on LPFM would doom the service before it begins, making it impossible to obtain enough financial support, without being able to sell commercial airtime, to exist.

Many so called local FM stations today are now owned by large groups that provide programming from some central point to all of their stations. This drastically reduces the "local" effectiveness that these stations provided in the past. These BIG stations no longer serve the local area. Advertising rates are greatly increased and small business can no longer use these stations to promote themselves. That's where I feel LPFM can return radio service back to a local community much in the same way that LPTV has done. A decision to not allow commercial support of LPFM would have a vast negative impact on small business in America and may well violate some rules of the Small Business Administration.

What possible reason can the FCC give for not permitting commercially supported LPFM stations, other than to protect the NAB member stations from competition? Commercial support has nothing to do with interference! There is no good reason to doom the LPFM service by taking away its ability to support itself by the sale of commercial advertising, a method of support that has served this nations stations well for over 75 years.

I would like to remind you that there was an overwhelming number (thousands) of comments filed in this proceeding supporting the creation of 1000 watt and 100 watt stations, allowing for both commercial and non-commercial operation as set forth in the FCC's NPRM.

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The public has spoken on this matter and to ignore this public mandate and just cave in to political pressure from the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) is a downright disgrace. Use of such anti-competitive actions by the NAB should be investigated by the Justice Department.

What's the NAB doing? They have tried to cause confusion on this issue by claiming that the new LPFM stations would cause "interference" to existing stations. Yet, a receiver study conducted by the FCC proved this to be INCORRECT. The NAB has just raised this smokescreen issue to attempt to conceal and cover-up its real dislike for LPFM which is that it does not want competition for listeners or advertising revenues for its member stations. The FCC cannot prevent competition and is supposed to promote competition.

I would hope that the FCC would vote **FOR** LPFM in its full form as proposed in the NPRM or delay the vote to clear the way for a workable LPFM service of 1000 watt and 100 watt commercial and non-commercial stations. Your support **FOR** this vote will be greatly appreciated.

I thank you for your time and your interest.

Respectfully,

  
Thomas Burke Buchanan

**Dear Chairman Kennard and Commissioners Ness and Tristani,**

**On the eve the historic LPFM vote, I would once again ask that you consider a commercial micro-service.**

**Please do not leave us without a reasonable means of support. One Watt, five, ten...any amount is better than no amount.**

**You've come so far with this proposal, please don't let it die here.**

**Thank you for your time. My thoughts and encouragement are with you.**

**Sincerely,**

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